



# From NOVEMBER 2023 (Volume 148)





Photo History



Cover Picture

No reason, except I like their attitude

I have long thought about some issues that I do not claim to have detailed knowledge of but..and yes there is a 'but', that doesn't prevent me from having definite views about them.

I like to think I have an open mind and once I gain knowledge my view may change so I like to express them in these pages with the comment that they are my contemporary views.

My thoughts on surveillance have been reinforced and I really think my initial feelings were correct.

Ultimately surveillance gives information to the 'gatherer' and especially where this surveillance is surreptitiously obtained this information is a very powerful tool.

It will be argued. Very often it will be justified, that this information is used to aid society and in many instances this will be demonstrably true. However, the hidden side is how this information can, and is, used by the person or organisation in a manner not for the common good but instead it is used for power, be it commercial or political.

I don't intend to give examples but all around me I am very aware of the truth and validity of my thoughts and I feel that the genie is 'out of the bottle' and will not be enticed back.. mainly due to the arguments and examples of how it aids mankind. This is true but I feel that one must look further and see it's ultimate use is in how it will control mankind and NO control of any sort is for the common good.

Enough said on this topic

Another very current and very controversial subject is AI. The incredible advances in AI has even amazed people closely involved with it and here is one of the obvious dangers.

Many features and applications are so readily accepted both from their novel attributes, their time-saving features and, let's be honest, we are all sucked into these new innovations and anything that 'seems' better than the existing concepts. Here is the rub. by accepting, without questioning, or trying to foretell the future, maybe we are leaving ourselves in a very vulnerable state.

Again, I will not go into details, as every plus side has its opposing side when taken to logical conclusions, so I will attempt, in my simple way, to make my overall argument and leave some thoughts of mine unanswered for others to look at in the future and think that maybe Ralph was right. Please don't misunderstand me, I have no desire to be 'right' I just hope that as a generation we can be aware of the inherent risks.

Many good intentions behind the introduction of AI in medicine, entertainment, commerce, agriculture etc are done totally for altruistic reasons, to benefit mankind, but often the innovations are 'stolen' or adapted for less than good intentions. Fraud, human trafficking and child exploitation are just the tip of the iceberg. There is no going back.

What worries me most is the 'machine learning' element, where computers are programmed to solve a certain problem and the resultant concept is then programmed into computers to further develop themselves. This second generation and subsequent generations far outpace man in the logic, and intelligence with their unbelievable speed.

Think about this. where does man stand in this evolution and development. No question mark- this is a rhetorical question.

One very important ability that man has over machine is a moral compass and I know sceptics will immediately say this can be part of AI but the human element has always succeeded through generations and the success of humanity relies on man, not machine.

I am not a luddite and fully appreciate the enormous benefits of AI and indeed I have 'spell-checked' twice in this short passage. What I fear is the replacement of man in so many spheres. Will man adapt to a life of no work, no manual exercise, no brain power required and so no. Will ultimate leisure not produce a society that is so 'machine' dependent that it can no longer develop along normal paths.

What would happen if suddenly there was no power. Man will have become so dependent on 'his machines' he will be totally unable to adapt...or think for himself.

What a frightening thought.





## Photo History



I liken it to wild salmon versus farm salmon. The wild salmon survives despite all the odds, fighting its way upstream, up waterfalls, to reach its spawning ground and reproduce. In doing so it develops a body that is totally adapted to this race to survive. Meanwhile his fat, farm counterparts are fed at regular intervals with coloured feed to produce an acceptable public colour acceptance and leaving behind vast faecal pollution and salmon lice in the 'farms' where they are reared. The price and availability make these fish universally accepted but the two fish bear no comparison. I know this analogy may not bear scrutiny but a society without the strictures of work, of learning, of thinking, will surely be a society that can not continue in the long term.

Many organisations are already well advanced in how AI is being used to gain their monopoly in commerce and one only has to look at Google, Amazon, etc to see the dangers behind allowing organisations to tower over governments and become too big to fail. are their workers happy?

Again- a rhetorical question.

Surely this development will, and already is, being exploited by foreign powers as a route towards world dominance. No more conventional wars, just a 'taking over' of the masses. I am not being alarmist or ridiculous and as I always say: I write down my thoughts in these volumes leaving myself open to ridicule and maybe the future will prove me to be a total idiot...but somehow I doubt it. Anyway ...here endeth my rant

RK..12th November 2023

On a domestic front, Tammy & Larnie are both fully occupied and well and we speak daily which is great. DP, Angela and the kids are all busy in their respective roles but we do communicate frequently and keep abreast of all the news. Our family WhatsApp is also a great forum for keeping in touch with everyone further afield and we see messages from everyone appearing from time to time.

Politically, the country seems to be run by idiotic parties and they certainly display their ineptitude publicly which gives me no desire to comment on politics. They certainly don't represent my thoughts and I feel no confidence in any of them. The personality cult, in my opinion, is totally idiotic as personality traits are not indicative of policies or attitudes and when I hear anyone, including friends, saying so & so is very good, I question whether what the media puts out about this person has any relevance whatsoever. Even if the public consumption portrayal of a politician accurately reflects them, what difference can that possibly make. An individual does not shape the countries politics. Our government is a massive overlaid oil tanker careering on its preset path and can not turn or brake suddenly to avoid disaster. It can only make contingencies and these are often not well thought out.

Whilst on the topic of 'thinking things through' I made my views on Gaza and Israel public in the last Volume and I continue to quietly put across my take on this. I start again by saying I have no solution. I abhor what happened on October 7th in Israel by the Hamas and fully understand the hatred and total extreme feeling everyone has. What I can not see is a thought out long term plan of action.. I can see the annihilation of Hamas is paramount but the incursion into Gaza will fuel anti Israel sentiment worldwide and the rise in antisemitism is clearly showing above the parapet everywhere. I repeat, Hamas are cowards and this is clearly shown by them hiding under schools and hospitals using the Palestine citizens as human shields. This is used as anti-Israel propaganda as hospitals are damaged and children shown as innocent victims. Nowhere do I hear anti Hamas rhetoric saying they must leave the tunnels under the hospitals and surrender the hostages from many countries. My question is twofold. What will the Hamas do now. Will they flee, as I personally think, hiding among the Palestinians and regroup but with many more sympathisers as Israelis are vilified as the aggressors. What will happen in Gaza as no Arab country seems willing to intervene and Egypt on the border is actively not allowing refugees in. Who will govern and control Gaza to ensure peace.? No-one answers that. All I hear are reasons why this is not practical, I repeat...what is the long term solution. I don't know the answer and opt out of discussing this with friends as it seems to get too heated to discuss rationally. I do not know the answer but unfortunately the Israeli government also do not appear to have it either.



December 6th 20123. I am adding some more thoughts to the previous ones as so much is happening worldwide and sometimes my comments are almost 'out of date' before the Volume is finished

Last night the BBC were furnished with proof in the form of eye-witness accounts and videos of the unbelievable barbaric atrocities carried out on October 7th . Rapes and butchery and unbelievable acts were shown to have been orchestrated as a plan of action and frankly it so disturbed me to acknowledge that man can behave in this way. Not , madness and hatred at the moment, but 'planned' atrocities of such barbarism that it should show the world what levels of depravity the Israelis have to defend them selves against. I always try to take a balanced viewpoint but this revelation last night left me so sad.

The resumed attacks in Gaza are attracting so much opposition from world leaders and also within Israel that my prophecies earlier seem to becoming factual. I repeat, I can not see an answer, but then I am not political and don't profess to have answers but I am aware that no long term solution is being given other than the total eradication of Hamas. How is this going to be achieved? They mingle with innocent Palestinians utilising civilian shields in their established cowardly way to carry out their attacks. Surely therefore, they will not be obvious to the soldiers on the ground. How, therefore, can they be identified? Like others, I can see the problem and unlike others I do not profess to have the answers and unlike others I try to maintain a balanced and logical view.

**It somehow seems strange to discuss such serious matters as above and then go onto such trivial everyday photos and comments but I guess we all are guilty of this.**

**We get very involved in matters of importance and then go about our daily life forgetting distant fears and situations so quickly...but I suppose that is life..**

**..Anyway, I do hope this does not trivialise Lynn and my feelings about serious matters that we discuss in depth.**



**This is the autumn colours of the White Hornbeam we planted high over the Enfield Ridgeway as a memorial to our dear departed friend , Alison**





Master chef Cyril invited a few of us for an impromptu meal in late November

Photo History



Lynn



Viv

The requisite  
glass of red  
ensures a tasty  
meal



Chef Cyril



Judy

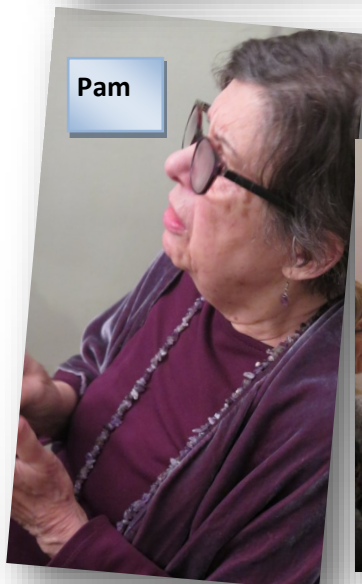


Ivor



Cyril

Careful.....glass is  
tipping



Pam



Harold

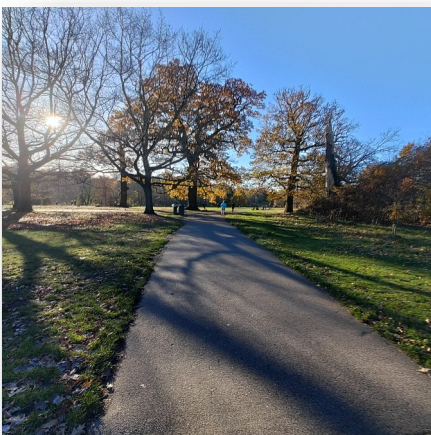




## Photo History



I always get a great view of our Saturday 5k Park Run. "why?" you may ask.  
Simple, I'm always at the back!!







**We spotted this tree on The Enfield Chase walk that had grown into a neighbouring tree**







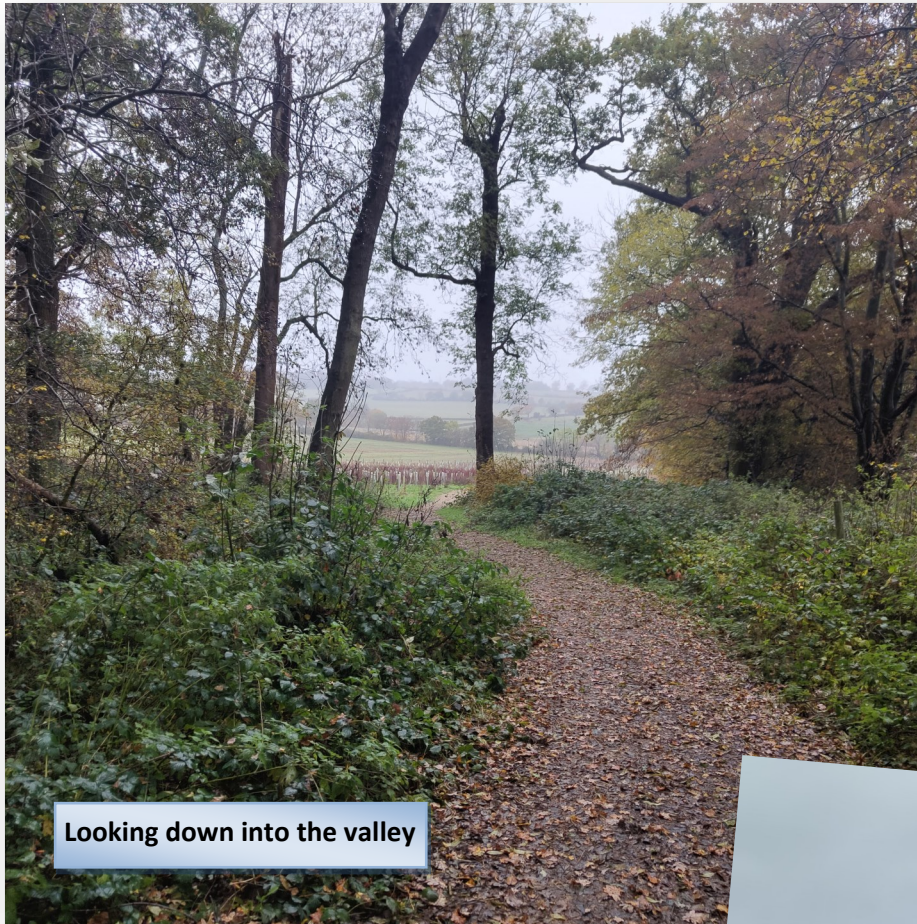
**Damp conditions with fallen leaves gave so many toadstool and mushroom clusters that seemed to disappear overnight**







We promised Sue that we would plant an oak sapling alongside Arnon and Ben's oak saplings, so with sapling in its pot (from my allotment) together with trowel, compost, stake and tree guard we went down to that magic spot in the valley



Looking down into the valley



The beautiful sapling



Preparing the hole



The great spot in the valley by the pond

'D' for David on the tree guard







Yes, it's a weed but the symmetrical way it displays itself shows a hidden beauty







**A long while back, Lynn and I (with other volunteers) planted pond plants around the newly-dug ponds and scrapes in Oakwood Park and we had many irate locals questioning what was going on. It would have been a great idea to have had these explanatory posters exhibited at that time**



**The edges still need nature to soften the landscape**







## Photo History

Towards the end of November a group of us volunteers did a 'walkabout' from the Rectory Road farm sites across The Ridgway to The Botany Bay sites, along the Enfield Chase path to see progress and I think these shots show some of the great changes (and maybe some areas that still need attention)



A dismal wet start



Great signs of growth all around



With the recent heavy rainfall many of the smaller ponds have filled well







## Photo History



We made a detour to visit the white hornbeam that we planted to remember lovely Alison. It's in a beautiful position overlooking a great view and there is a fitting brass plaque on it. Its leaves are changing colour now as winter approaches







Photo History



This page shows both sides of the story. Both the beauty and also some sad displays of where it went wrong. Sometimes so called 'experts' need to listen to local farmers and site the ponds in wet boggy areas that the farmers can easily identify .....not just where they feel they should go.

One of our ponds displays this abundance of magnificent bullrushes



The wonderful view into the valley along the excellent 'yellow brick road' that weaves its way through The Enfield Chase



This gully leading to a lower pond is just in need of a little help to keep it to a set path rather than letting it escape and causing this totally boggy area



Surely a more suitable pipe could have been selected and then easily concealed with some local stones.



It has been raining really heavily over quite a while and if these ponds had been sited correctly and also if they had not been in an area where water drained through the ground one might have seen a very different outcome. These ponds will never fill as they have been currently left



Ending on a very positive note, these wonderful early signs of 'new growth' in our plantings over such a vast area







## Photo History

In November '23. Lynn, Cyril and I did a recce for a walk for the same week with the 'lads' It started at Stratford , making its way along the Jubilee Greenway via Limehouse Basin ending in Wapping and Shadwell



## Around Stratford







Photo History







## Photo History

### Rotherhithe tunnel ventilation shaft



Alongside the Lee Navigation by Three Mills Island and close to Limehouse Basin



This whole area is being developed











**Around Wapping, Limehouse  
and the River Lee navigation**







## Photo History



The canal is slow moving here and the resultant green algae is very colourful but signifies a 'dead' river system





So that's where all those  
'missing' bikes end up







**LIMEHOUSE**  
Limehouse Basin







The Wapping Hydraulic Power Station was built by the London Hydraulic Power Company in 1890. It provided power throughout the central London area.

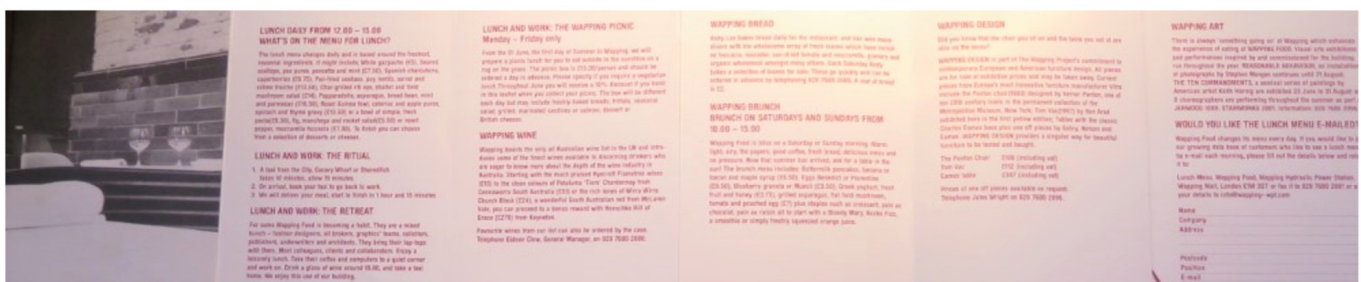
Before the adoption of electricity, hydraulic power was London's main power system, generating everything from bridges to private households in Kensington and Mayfair. In the heyday of hydraulic power, more than 33 million gallons of water a week were pumped beneath the streets of London. It was transmitted along 186 miles of underground, cast iron piping.

Tower Bridge depended on it, as did countless City offices, West End theatres and department stores. The revolving stages of both the London Palladium and the Coliseum used hydraulic lifts, as did the fire curtains of Drury Lane and Her Majesty's theatres, the organ console lifts of the Leicester Square Theatre and the Odeon Marble Arch, the fire hydrants at the National Gallery and the picture lift at the Royal Academy.

As electricity became cheaper and electronically powered equipment increasingly sophisticated, so industry and private users abandoned hydraulic power. When Wapping finally closed in 1977, it was not only the last of its kind in London; it was the last in the world.



**This menu is from 2018 when Lynn and I it was a quirky restaurant**







## Photo History



Wapping and King's Cross  
Thameslink Station

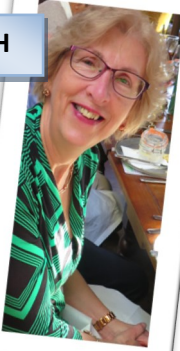






Photo History

RUTH



DANIELLE



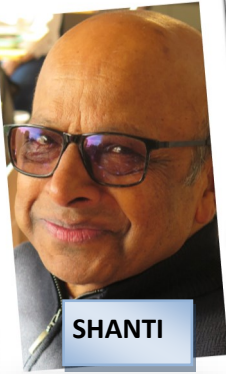
BOB



RAJ



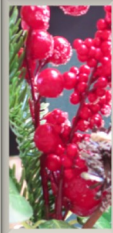
ROGER



SHANTI



YVONNE



ARUN

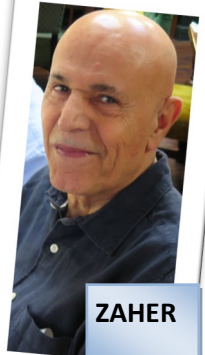


LYNN



PAUL

King's Head, Winchmore Hill



ZAHER



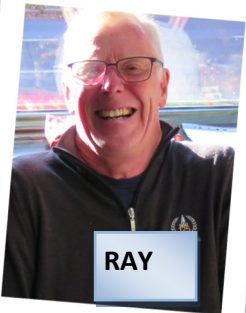
ROY



MARK



CHAY



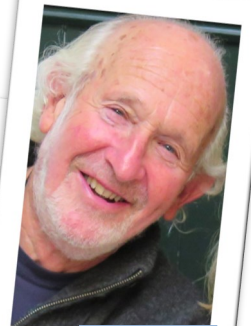
RAY



Swimmers Xmas Lunch  
2023



KLAUDIUSZ



RALPH



PAUL



MICHAEL

PETER



CHRIS







Photo History



In 1978 I bought Lynn her personalised car reg 3JOK  
for £375.00...a good investment but she'd never sell it

888 Mark  
1, Allar  
Kirkella  
Hull.

With the Compliments of



Dear Sir

Fur  
March, I  
made out  
made out

## CAR MARKS OF HULL

1 ALLANHALL WAY, WESTELLA ROAD,  
KIRKELLA, HULL, HU10 7QU.  
Tel. Hull 25363 Day 658206 Evening

The  
bottom

I  
and that  
with no  
forward

The enclosed is forwarded without a covering letter concerning

3 JOK

dated 3rd April 1978.

An  
apprecia

Mr. R.M. Kley,  
'Birch'  
Carbone Hill,  
Northaw,  
Herts.  
EN6 4PN.

## CAR MARKS OF HULL

RIG 1	£1,950	PWG 1	£850
FS 12	£795	GAK 1	£995
2 ABD	£404	82 KH	£424
AV 22	£797	LCP 6	£273
600 AV	£595	LR5 03	£225
8484 AB	£151	8 MCG	£375
2800 AT	£149	MB 522	£625
44 BMR	£215	MM 1234	£175
800 COX	£180	5858 MW	£175
7 CGC	£450	888 PBF	£195
D 72	£995	882 PL	£191
DJC 332	£195	75 PT	£231
3 DOL	£285	RDP 14	£221
44 DAN	£395	REG 776	£221
878 DP	£195	333 RFM	£271
ES 11	£1,950	123 RW	£331
7076 FN	£190	RCP 14	£221
6600 FG	£195	NP 11	£1,851
GBF 111	£325	SEA 72	£225
HRS 777	£275	SMW 43	£181
444 HRH	£475	TJ 14	£391
3 JOK	£375	8 UDE	£221
6 JRR	£375	6 VMH	£161
30 KE	£295	YWD 11	£121

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Kindly sign and return the enclosed white invoice.

Signed

*[Signature]*

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numbers.			
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444 DJF	£225	NBC 17	£325
27 DMR	£225	NBF 4	£375
DNG 1	£1,295	NJC 3	£395
58 DRP	£225	NMC 85	£225
DWC 777	£175	60 PP	£495
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Mercedes-Benz CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE

MERCEDES

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## Photo History



A really heavy seat had been moved and thrown behind some of our planning and a small black heavy seat had ben thrown in a water gully. If these idiots had a brain they'd be dangerous

Gerald and I had a walk along the Enfield chase path and the weather was fabulous with some great colours. A small sapling the was unprotected had visible signs of being chewed but was still surviving





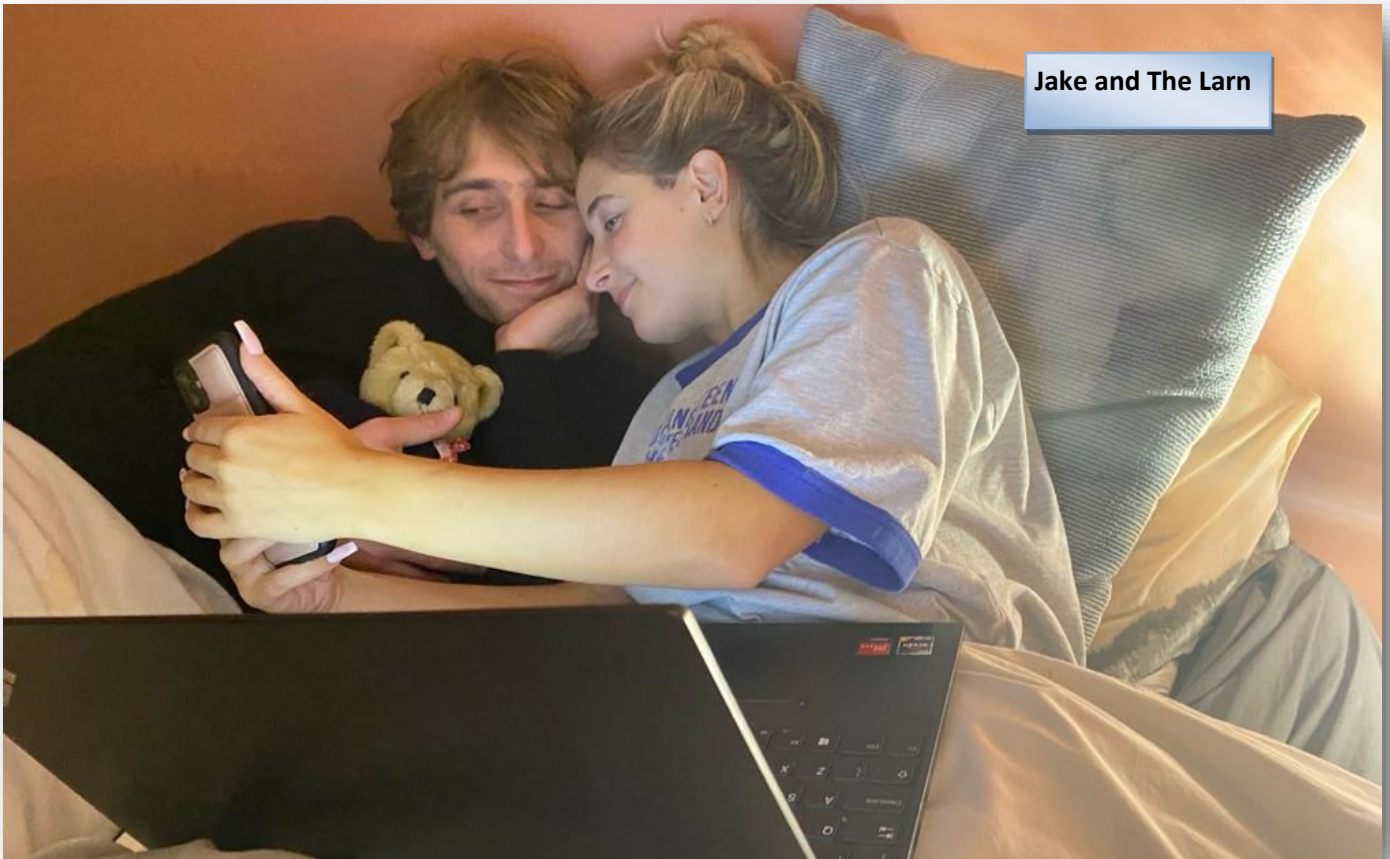


Tammy & The Larn get on so well and are always laughing together. These shots are from a weekend they had together in Nuremburg



Typical fun shot that Lynn and tammy so enjoy





Jake and The Larn



My 'smiley' family



DP and Lynn in our cottage  
in Shepton Mallet



The Larn and  
Tammy





We stayed at Longbridge House at Shepton Mallet again in December 2023 as we were meeting the family at The Crown where we all enjoyed some quality time . The next day we met again at Rockaway at Temple Cloud







Just loved the simplicity of this picture in the pub











We met DP, Angela and the kids (and Myrna) & Raoul at Rockaway after a great walk to the local waterfall and had a vegan meal there



Rockaway is a paradise for 'junkies of the unusual' like me



SIGNS  
OF THE  
TIMES



PISSING  
PLACE







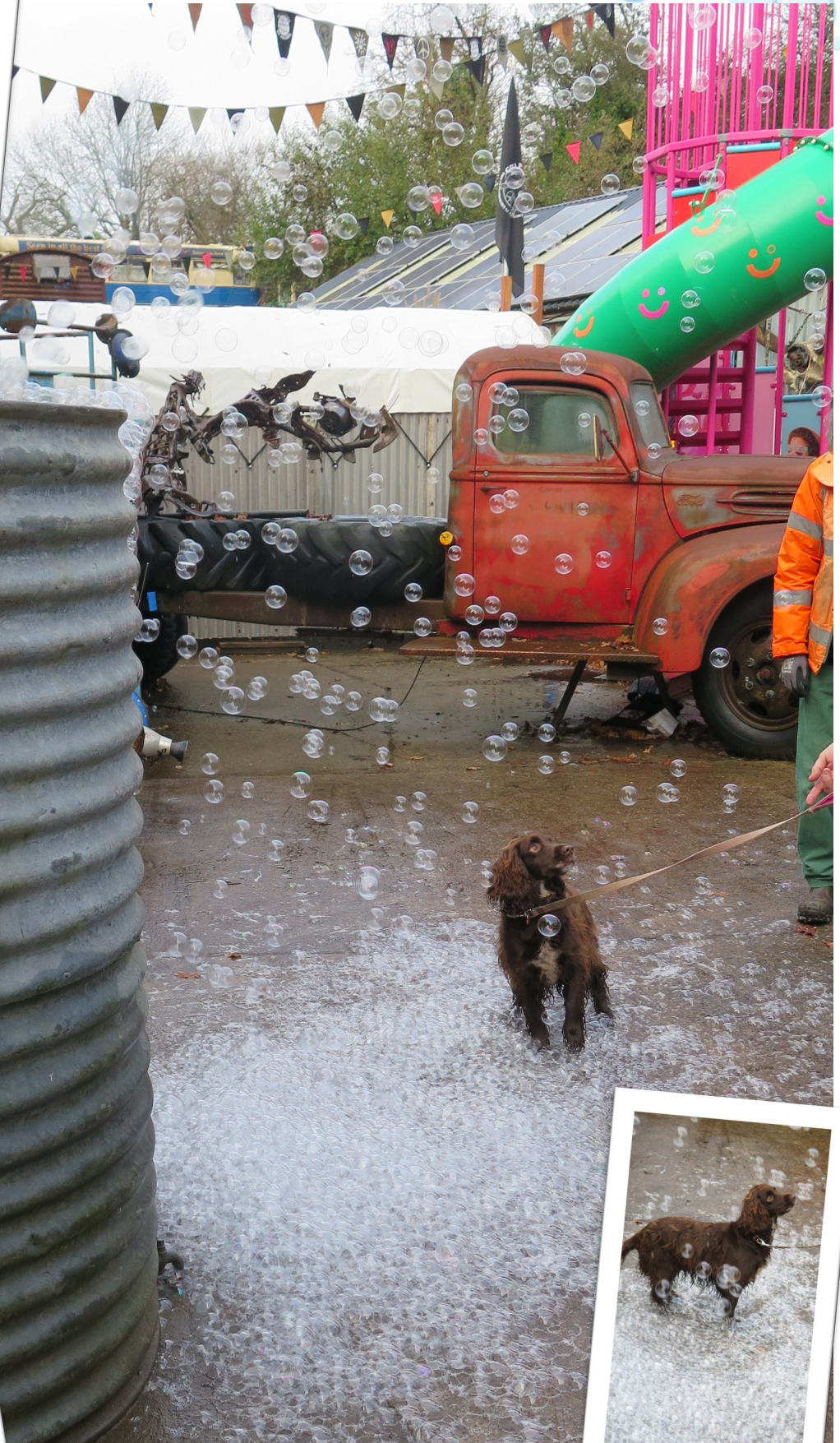
Photo History







Fritz, the dog, was totally mesmerised by this gigantic bubble machine



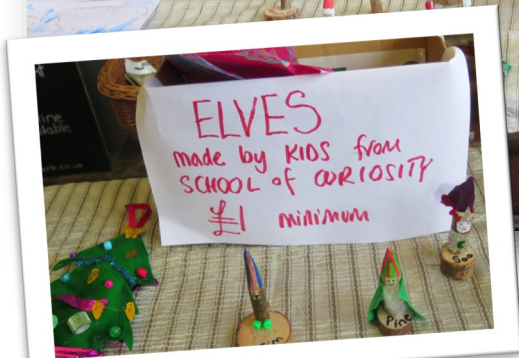




## Photo History



Angela's School of Curiosity where the kids she teaches at Rockwell made personally-named elves and were so proud to see that they collected £60.00 in donations for two charities



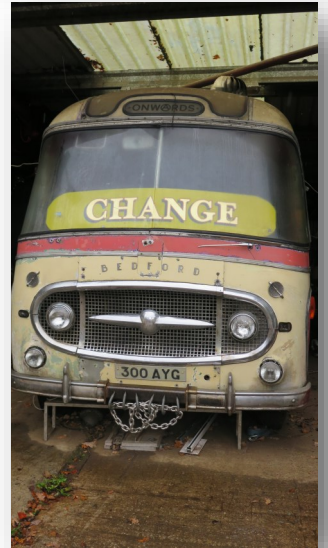








## Photo History



These transport  
us to another age







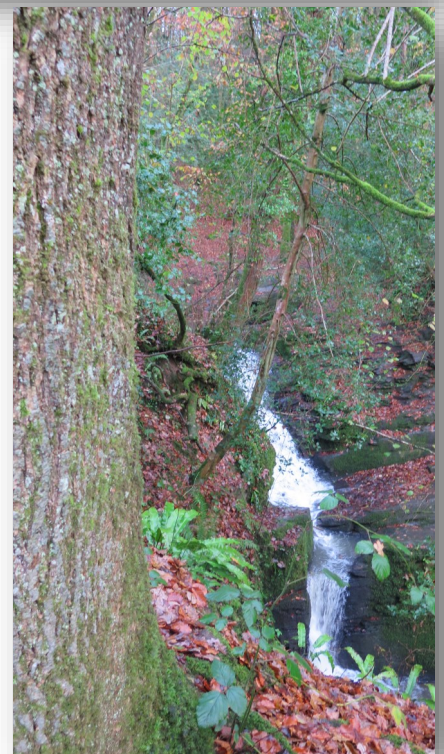
Art Studios and  
glassblowing  
Studios







The really wet and muddy walk through great colours to the waterfall before lunch











## Photo History







Photo History



LYNN



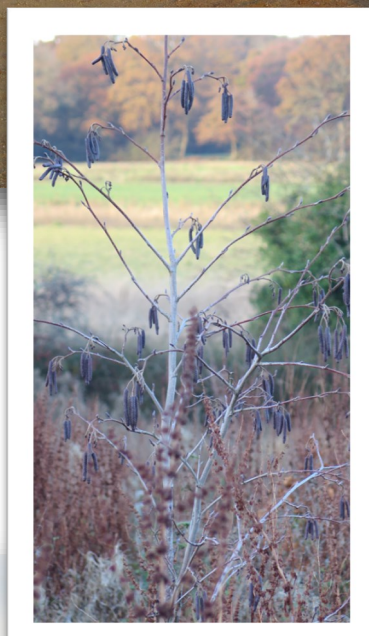
Just in time to  
catch the last post







Gerald and I walked along the path a couple of days after our planting and they looked so great



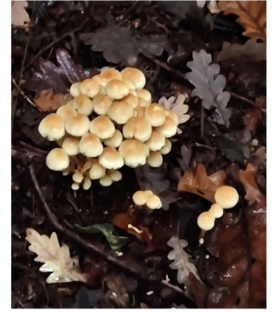
The original plantings were now establishing and in the spring there should be loads of new growth visible







## Photo History



Sometime a wet day  
still does not deter the  
determined runners

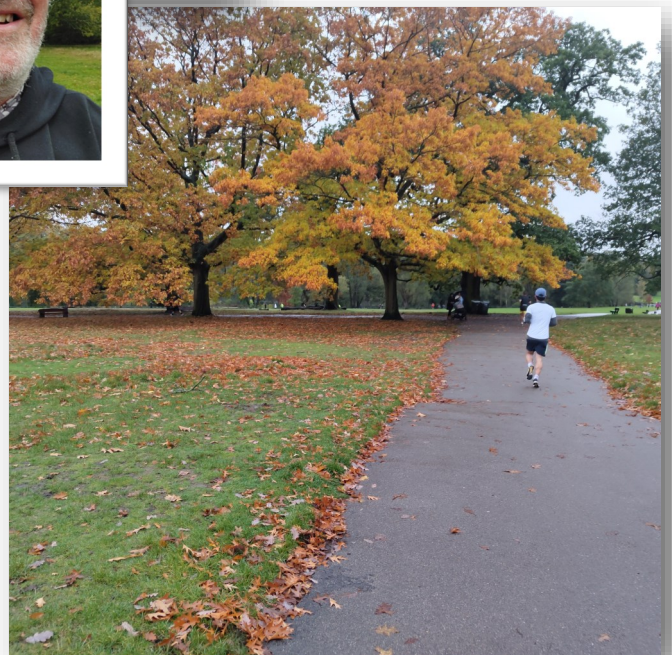






Photo History

LILY



LYNN



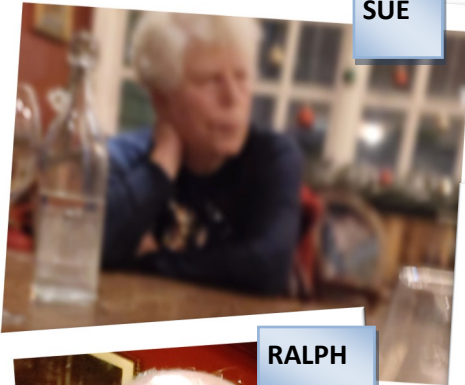
LYNN



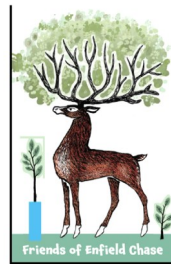
STEVE



SUE



Friends Of Enfield Chase  
Xmas dinner at The Robin  
Hood on Dec 8th 2023



RALPH



ANDREW



PAUL



MICKY



JOHN



PETER





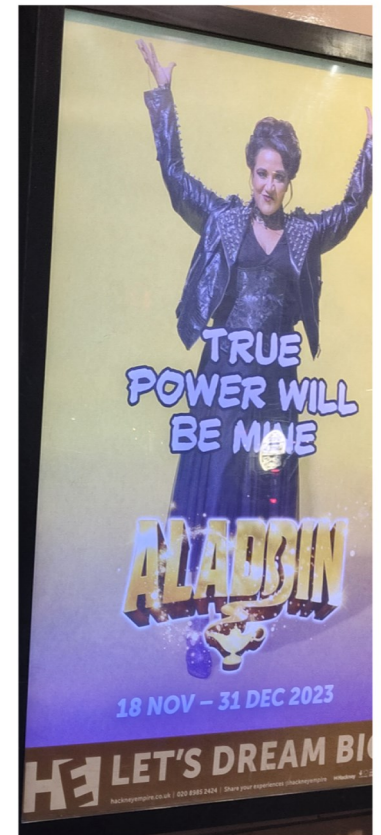


## Photo History



To end this Volume on a happy note, we took The Larn to see Aladdin at the beautiful Hackney Empire and it was totally stupid, totally crazy...and totally fun.

"Oh yes, it was!!"



Directed by and starring **Clive Rowe** as Widow Twankey, alongside **Natasha Lewis** as Abby-na-zaaar!, **Ruth Lynch** as Spirit of the Ring, **Fred Double** as Aladdin, **Isabella Mason** as Jazz, **George Heyworth** as Mildew Funk, **Rishi Manuel** as Wishy, and **Kat B** as the Genie. Expect an unbelievable cast, incredible costumes, uncontrollable laughter and song and dance numbers that are nothing short of genie-us!